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WHEELING, W. VA., MAY 31, 1882.

The General Assembly of the Presby-

terians.

Large bodies move slowly, and the large

gathering of Presbyterian ministers and

elders now in session at Springfield, Ill., is

no exception to the rule. There is an en-

ormous amount of discussion notwithstanding

the adoption of the ten minute rule. The

case of Elder Donaldson, of Pennsylvania,

who is under discipline for participating

in a dance at a neighbor's house, and who

has appealed to the Assembly against the

decisions of his Session, Presbytery and

Synod, is a case in point. The subject was

discussed at great length on Saturday last,

and developed only a remarkable variety

of views upon technical points, many of

the members seeming to desire to get rid

of the subject on purely technical grounds.

Likewise the Sunday question has been up

for more or less discussion, but thus far

without eliciting any specific mandate on the

subject. This is also an embarrassing

position, because under the changes now going

on so rapidly throughout the country it is

almost impossible to lay down a specific

rule as to what constitutes an infraction of

the command to "remember the Sabbath

day to keep it holy." There are so many

works of necessity intermingled with the

daily avocations of men, some of which

do not fall into or overlap the Sabbath, that

it is hard to draw a line and designate

the old ideas as to what used to be

called a proper observance of the day.

There are, for instance, the questions of

telegraphing, railroading, hotel keeping,

Government employment in the mail ser-

vice, and other like new features of our

civilization, which have drawn into their

embrace great numbers of church people

of late years, all of whom find it difficult

to reconcile their old ideas of Sabbath

keeping with the apparent inexorable

necessities of their livelihood. The question

is, how are their cases to be met and dis-

posed of by the church? The Committee

on the Observance of the Sabbath answer

as follows, as far as they have yet made

any answer on the subject:

"First, the assembly would affectionately

admonish all our people to bear in mind

that God has, by positive, moral, and

positive law, designated one day in seven as

a sacred time; that he allowed the Sabbath,

sanctified it, and set it apart from common

to sacred purposes. Hence, to use it, or

part of it for things inconsistent with its

sacred is sinful; second, the assembly

earnestly exhorts all members and officers

of our churches to guard against violations

of the fourth commandment by performing

labor on the Sabbath under the claim of

necessity, or merely when such claim

cannot be sustained by the word of God; third,

the assembly would urge upon all who dis-

seminate Gospel principles and Sunday

observance views among the Germans and

foreigners arriving upon our shores, fourth,

we enjoin church sessions to exercise with

some discipline upon the members of the

church; fifth, ministers are urged to

present this subject in their ser-

mons in season and out of season; sixth,

that, inasmuch as prominent among the

forms of Sabbath desecration prevalent in

our times are those to which many railroad

and steamboat companies and publishers

of Sunday papers are addicted, the assembly

earnestly counsels all our people not to

be connected with such enterprises, or

employees of such companies, or as ship-

pers or passengers on the Sabbath, or as pub-

lishers or patrons of Sunday newspapers,

not to be partners in the guilt of any of

these flagrant forms of Sabbath-breaking.

The seventh resolution provides for the

seventh resolution provides for the

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origin and plenary inspiration of the scrip-
 tures, or in our Presbyterian system
 of doctrines held by our church, either by
 ignoring or deprecating the supernatural
 element in divine revelation, or by exalt-
 ing human conjecture and speculation
 above historical and divine facts, and
 truths, or by applying the hypothesis of
 evolution, unverified and incapable of ver-
 ification, to the word of the living God;
 that the assembly earnestly urge upon the
 Professors in the seminaries the all-im-
 portant duty of intelligently and unswerving-
 ly cultivating the piety of the students
 under their charge, and seeking to fill and
 inspire them with the great truths and
 motives of the Word of God which furnish
 the most powerful impulse in the work of
 saving souls and bringing the world to
 Christ."

The resolutions were adopted by a uni-

anous vote.

This deliverance against "Evolution"

looks a little as if it might have been in-

terpreted particularly for Dr. McCosh. It

seems to hit very close to his position at all

events.

We refer to these points of deliberation

among our Presbyterian friends only to

show how hard it is in this latter day and

changing world for any body of men to lay

down laws which will after all prevent

many of their own faith—yes, teachers in

Israel—from becoming more or less of a

law unto themselves. There was a time

when systems of theology were supposed to

have been completed for all succeeding

generations, but the last half of the Nine-

teenth century has shown that this was a

mistaken opinion, and that all sorts

of standards of faith and practice have had

to undergo revision.

The Ohio Pond Law.

The Supreme Court of the State of Ohio

yesterday decided that the liquor-tax law

known as the Pond law, the provisions of

which have been explained in these

columns, is unconstitutional. They decide

that it is in the nature of a license law, and

as such contrary to that provision of the

constitution of Ohio which enacts that "no

license to traffic in intoxicating liquors

shall hereafter be granted in this State."

The Pond law got round this provision by

assessing a tax on each place where liquor

is sold, instead of on the articles sold, which

seemed to the court to be in the nature of

a distinction without a difference. The

Sunday law is a separate law, and was not

brought before the court. It is not proposed

to bring it before the court, inasmuch as the

law is simply the general law on the sub-

ject of Sunday closing that obtains in

nearly every State in the Union.

It is likely that a new agitation will fol-

low this decision, and it is probable that the

demand will be for a constitutional amend-

ment giving the legislature the right to con-

trol the business either by a license, or by

a tax, (which is much the same thing) or by

such other regulations as may from time to

time be considered best.

The situation is considerably changed by

the decision, and it may result in a curious

attitude of persons and parties. The De-

mocracy put the provision in the constitu-

tion in 1851, and they may now resist the

striking it out, while the Republicans may

insist on striking it out in order to get

control of the question. As long as it re-

mains in the constitution it will presumably

be a dead letter, judging the future by the

past, and this fact, curiously enough, may

commend it to the favor of those who have

been accustomed to denounce it as a piece

of Puritanical folly, and to the disfavor of

those who have, as a general thing, favored

constitutional prohibition in Maine, Kan-

sas and other States. The whole situation

is turned topsy-turvy by the decision,

and it will take some days for the two

sides to ascertain and agree upon their

bearings for the future.

This census bureau has just issued a bul-

letin which shows that Pittsburgh has

1,071 different manufacturing establish-

ments, having \$30,976,002 capital, in which

are employed 34,165 hands, who earn in

the aggregate \$16,918,426, or a per capita of

\$181, using materials valued at \$11,201,902,

the products of which amount to \$74,-

241,889.

Judge J. J. Moore, of Fairmont, a

prominent citizen of that place, father of

Capt. E. W. S. Moore, died yesterday fore-

noon at 11 o'clock, aged about 72.

We are indebted to our obliging friend,

the Hon. David Wagener, of West Wheel-

ing, O., for a handsome railway and polit-

ical map of Ohio.

"We doctored our boy for rheumatism,"

said Mr. Barton, of the store firm of Red

and Barton, of this city, to one of our

reporters, but could find no cure. I had heard so much

of the efficacy of St. Jacobs Oil that I finally

determined to try it. Two bottles of the Oil

fully cured him."—*Constitutional Reporter.*

The Rev. Dr. Thayer opposed the re-

commendation that the Sunday work should

be added to the duties of the superinten-

dent. He believed that the committee

had work enough to do without being

saddled with this work. The subject was

referred to the Standing Committee on

Temperance to find out whether they

could undertake the work.

Another question that presents some

features of embarrassment is as to what

shall constitute sound theological teaching

in the seminaries of the church. As we

have lately seen, Andover Seminary has

been much perplexed on this very same

question, and one or two cases of a simi-

lar character have arisen in Scotland. Dr.

McCosh, of Princeton, has held that "evolu-

tion" was not inconsistent with sound

theology. Other ministers hold that it is

at variance with the genealogy of man as

recorded in Genesis. The Assembly at

Springfield seems inclined to this latter

view, and has adopted the following de-

liverance on that and other points, em-

braced in the catalogue of sound theology:

"In view of the activity of the ad-

herents of infidelities in disseminating

of their views of the church and its policy;

also in view of the grave constitutional and

administrative questions in our church

requiring intelligent discussion and set-

tlement, the assembly desires that the

under its care to give more attention to

thorough and systematic instruction on the

constitution and policy of the church and

the propriety of co-operation between the

seminaries and the presbyteries in com-

binating the best methods of instruction;

that greater stress be laid in the seminaries

on a thorough instruction in Hebrew and

Greek. In view of the crude and danger-

ousness of many of the secular and

religious papers, periodicals and books

of some of the pupils of the

of the land, resulting from the in-

roduction and prevalence of German mys-

ticism and the criticism of philosophical

speculation and so-called scientific evolu-

tion, and in view of the alarming de-

fections from the faith of the people, both

in this country and abroad, and which seri-

ously threatens our own beloved Church;

and in view of the faith that the revealed

word of God, the only source of truth,

and therefore the only hope of mankind,

your committee recommends that this as-

sembly, in the name of the great Head of

the Church, do solemnly warn all who give

instructions in our theological seminaries

against inculcating any views or adapting

any methods, which may lead to unsettle

the faith in the doctrine of the divine

truth."

A. VOGELER & CO.,
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